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OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHML #0743 0860805
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 260805Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0226
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 2216

UNCLAS MANILA 000743

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR DRL/MLGA (MCGEENEY)
STATE ALSO FOR IO/RHS (OSTERMEIER)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [RP](#) [UNHRC](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION

REF: STATE 29095

(SBU) Polcouns on March 26 discussed reftel points on retaining the mandate of the Special UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression with UN and International Organizations (UNIO) Executive Director Grace Princesa of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and outlined recent examples where Islamic states have used the "defamation of religion" concept to arrest and imprison dissenters and those of other religions. Princesa, who has extensive experience in the Middle East, acknowledged the chilling effect on free speech that the OIC's amendment to Canada's resolution to extend the Special Rapporteur's mandate could have, and she assured Polcouns that U.S. concerns would be carefully considered by senior officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs in both Manila and Geneva.
EBERT-GRAY